



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION**  
D I S T R I C T

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March 7, 2013

Chairman Mary Nichols  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Nichols,

We know that you are familiar with the great work Resource Conservation Districts are doing across California. The San Joaquin County RCD would like to suggest that investments of AB 32 revenues be made in farmland preservation, watershed protection, and natural resource conservation. These investments now will benefit job creation, greenhouse gas reduction, avoidance of future greenhouse gas creation, and provide multiple other benefits including habitat, clean water, strong rural communities, and resilient food systems. While transportation reduction is an important goal, augmenting that spending with the programs enumerated in this letter will bring a greater net benefit to the State of California by providing direct greenhouse gas reduction and secondary benefits for a cleaner, stronger, more livable California.

I would also like to suggest that Resource Conservation Districts are the correct implementing body for many of these programs. As the local hub of State-level conservation programs and local communities, RCDs provide a critical link in connecting landowners and local actors to the overarching goals identified in AB 32. We have the resources, expertise, statutory authority under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code and connections with landowners that are necessary to create meaningful, quantifiable, accountable and lasting change. This type of buy in is essential to creating a long term response to California's pressing GHG reduction needs.

It is my hope that you can create the following priorities:

- **Conserve working lands including farmland, forests, and range.**
- **Conserve parks, natural areas, and wild lands.**
- **Provide stewardship of California's watersheds.**

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Programs to invest in include:

- Williamson Act Subvention Funds.
- The Department of Conservation's RCD Assistance Unit, California Farmland Conservation and Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Programs and Statewide Watershed Program.
- Resource Conservation Districts for on the ground conservation projects.
- The Department of Pesticide Regulation's Fertilizer Research and Enhancement Program.

We especially support the RCD Assistance Program and Statewide watershed program. These programs support natural resource conservation projects implemented in coordination with landowners within targeted watersheds in the state. The Resource Conservation District Assistance Program offers technical and financial assistance to Resource Conservation Districts to support their land stewardship work with local landowners. The Statewide Watershed Program funds watershed coordinators and on-the-ground, conservation projects that provide tangible and significant natural resource conservation benefits. Both programs can be scaled up to target projects statewide to reduce GHG emissions and sequester carbon.

AB 32 marks a significant change in California's response to the collective challenges we face. It is essential those challenges are answered in a thoughtful way to better guide the future of our State. An emphasis on multiple benefits, thorough consideration of total impact, and a commitment to strong rural economies and the preservation of California's unique natural resources will serve as strong guiding principles for future generations.

Sincerely,



Jack Hamm  
President